

Cuba Lets PWs See Relatives

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By John Bland

Reuters

HAVANA, May 21—Some 1200 men were reunited today with relatives for the first time since being taken prisoners after last month's landings in an atmosphere of hope fed by the proposed tractors-for-prisoners swap.

But invasion civil chief Manuel Artime, 29, who Premier Fidel Castro has ruled ineligible for exchange under the tractors deal, was visited by no one. Artime reaffirmed his opposition to Cuban socialism and cheerfully said he expected to die.

Some 3000 relatives of the captives came to a Naval hospital three miles west of here where they are being held to be reunited with the prisoners.

Leader Is Happy

Artime, a Havana University medical school graduate, said he was "happy the boys are likely to go free."

But Artime said he didn't expect American authorities to go along with Castro's proposal that a Cuban accused of murder in New York be exchanged for himself.

He said that if he were released he would first of all try to find out who was responsible for the failure of the invasion.

The scene resembled a fairground as thousands of persons waited the call of the name of a brother or husband.

Those who had camped on grass under scores of gaily-colored tarps. They gossiped, ate ice cream and bought cigarettes for prisoners. A favorite pastime conversation was the version of the tractors-for-prisoners proposal.

Personal visits of the visitors was a common sight.

ing the hospital approaches were cordial. Militiamen at one point distributed cups of water to those waiting.

The relatives and prisoners passed between lines of armed militiamen and militiawomen to bleak, empty rooms where they were permitted to talk with relatives for 20 minutes.

It was the first time since the failure of the invasion at Playa Giron that the prisoners were permitted visitors.

PW-Tractor Swap Group Meets Today

DETROIT, May 21 (UPI)—Arrangements were made today for a meeting between United Auto Workers President Walter Reuther, Eleanor Roosevelt and Milton Eisenhower and 10 prisoners of Cuban dictator Fidel Castro to negotiate a PW-Tractor swap.

A UAW spokesman said the meeting was tentatively scheduled for 1 p. m. Monday in Washington.

The 10 prisoners of war captured in the abortive Cuban invasion April 17 flew to Miami yesterday from Havana to try to negotiate Castro's offer to trade 1200 of their comrades for 500 American tractors or bulldozers.

Spellman Sends \$5000 To PW-Ransom Fund

NEW YORK, May 21 (AP)—Francis Cardinal Spellman announced today he will donate \$5000 to a fund for the purchase of tractors to be exchanged for Cuban war prisoners in the hands of Prime Minister Fidel Castro.

Cardinal Spellman is in the Eye Institute of the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center recuperating from an operation for a detached retina.

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